with which his own has built an enduring pattern of reciprocal favors and obligations. It is in the farming villages that the Communists are seeking to bring about fundamental changes in the way of life and to break up the old complex of family and local loyalties.

What are the patterns of village life common to the old settled Szechwan plain and the more recently colonized areas of the Southwest? We shall sketch these before discussing the variations represented by urban life.

A. The Pattern of Village Life

First of all, life in the farming village is meager. In Szechwan in 1946 the average farm was 3.9 acres, and the average square mile provided food for 650 people. In Kweichow the average farm was 3.2 acres, in Yunnan 3.1. [1] Farm families save everything; fecal matter and refuse go into a pit

1. George B. Cressey, Land of the 500 Million: A Geography of China, New York, 1955, pp. 105, 178. The richest part of Szechwan, the Chengtu plain, has a population density of 2,300 people per square mile. Ibid., p. 178. As we consider the pattern of agricultural life in the Southwest, the following data on the nature and distribution of farming throughout the area should be kept

565 many farmers realize that the Yangtze River
722 gorges were not a dependable natural defense,
184 and that they could no longer live in an "isolated utopia" in West China, as Szechwan Province had been traditionally regarded.

The Communists have been making intensive efforts to "educate" the farmers. Although the learning of a few political terms is not enough to make the farmer nationalistic, at least he knows more about China as a nation than he ever did in the past.

• 423 The idea that he is to be given land of his own
565 (and concomitant responsibility) probably has
184 generated apprehension even in the poorest peasant who always believed he wanted to own land. To be sure, his gain through the process of land reform must have given the peasant some satisfaction, but subsequent grain taxes remain heavy and Communist efforts to collectivize the production and marketing of farm produce impose restrictions on the farmer. Compared with Central-South China, land reform and the establishment of cooperatives were carried out rapidly and with less resistance in this region. The fact that all farmers have been permitted to retain title to their land has led the peasantry to give support to the regime. Good crops, which have made this a grain-surplus region since 1953, helped to maintain the illusion of a prospering society.

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177 The Chinese farmer's picture of a foreign
565 culture was originally derived from contact with

721 marched into Tibet from both neighboring provinces, Sikang and Tsinghai. The battle of Ch'ang-tu cleared the way for the march to Lhasa. In May 1951, an agreement of peaceful solution was signed by the Tibetan and Chinese delegates in Peking. Thus the military conquest of the Southwest came to an end with an extension of Chinese sovereignty to Tibet.

631 In the first period of conquest by the Chinese Communists, this region was divided into eight units: namely, (1) Ch'uan-tung (East Szechwan), (2) Ch'uan-hsi (West Szechwan), (3) Ch'uan-nan (South Szechwan), (4) Ch'uan-pei (North Szechwan), (5) Yunnan, (6) Kweichow, (7) Sikang, and (8) the Special Municipality -- Chungking.

After two years, the four sections of Szechwan were reassembled into one province as before. Sikang, which had been considered attached to Tibet long ago and declared a separate province only in 1928, was now incorporated into Szechwan. Chungking's status as a special municipality under the Peking government, was cancelled. Thus today the Southwest Region comprises only the three provinces of Szechwan, Kweichow and Yunnan.

II. THE PERIOD OF TRANSITION

423 The first program of this period was based on the eight points[1] announced by Mao Tse-tung in the third session of the seventh Central Committee of the Communist Party held on June 6, 1950

1. Cheng-fu Kung-tso Pao-kao Hui-pien [Compendium of Gov't Reports 1950], Peking, Jen-min ch'u-pan-she, 1951, p. 1.

423 The first item of the 8-point program was land reform. The official reports of the Military and Political Committee of this region on land-ownership were prepared to indicate necessity for reform. Chang Chi-ch'un, a member of the Southwest Military and Political Committee, stated that in Ch'uan-tung in 12 Paos (a group of villages) there was a population of 17,465 persons and an acreage of land which could produce 24,139 tan (piculs) and 7 tou of rice. Of this land, 60 per cent was owned by 1,147 "landlords." Approximately 25 per cent of the land was owned by 15,369 "middle poor" peasants, 5.8 per cent was owned by 4,967 poor peasants, and 2.6 per cent was owned by 8,490 tenant farmers.[2]

Wang Wei-kang, a member of the Ch'uan-nan Administrative Committee, reported that while in the three paos of the Yung Country, the land-owners, 8 per cent of the population, owned 68.37 per cent of the land, the peasants, the moderately well-to-do, the poor, and the hired farm hands who constituted 85.4 per cent of the population, owned only 24.7 per cent of the land.[3] Chang Chi-ch'un reported similar conditions of land monopoly in Kweichow and to a lesser degree[4] in Yunnan. He said that land monopoly was most acute in the municipality of Chungking where 96.2 per cent of the land was in the hands of the rich

2. Compendium of Government Reports, p. 1006
3. Ibid., p. 1049.
4. Ibid., p. 1006.

423 landowners, and less than 3 per cent in the hands of the middle and poor peasants.[5] He came to the conclusion that as 40,000 people out of a total population of 57,400,000 were on the verge of starvation, the policy of Mao Tse-tung was justified and should be carried out.

745 162 In this period it was also found that there was a large number of persons in Southwest China who depended upon the government for a living. Teng Hsiao-p'ing reported on April 11, 1950 that there were 900,000 disbanded Kuomintang soldiers, 400,000 old civil service men, and 700,000 Communist soldiers. He emphasized that if they were not well-fed, a state of disorder might result.[6] The Communists considered the collection of a grain levy on the whole population in order to feed the armies and the civil service men as the most urgent need at this time.

669 The Communists were greatly concerned that the Kuomintang members would make trouble. Their fears were confirmed when the rebellion led by Li Mi and Yü Ch'eng-wan, two Kuomintang generals, took place in Kunming. Part of the 2nd and 4th field armies were sent from southern Kwangsi to Yunnan, and the rebellion was quickly stamped out, although the rebel leaders succeeded in escaping to the border of Burma.

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5. Ibid., p. 1006.

6. Ibid., p. 991.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF16 SW China
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311 In 1955, the lowest average land holding per farm household was 8.5 shih-mou (1.4 acres) in Sikang Province; the highest average land holding per farm household was 16.9 shih-mou (2.8 acres) in Szechwan Province. The average for Szechwan is 12 per cent higher than the national average.[3]

III. LAND REFORM

•423 565 The Land Reform Movement, as it affected the Southwest China region, had been partially completed in September 1951. Approximately 37 million inhabitants, in an area which included 172 hsien and 8 municipalities, had been subjected to "land reform."[4] The Communist regime had organized "poor peasants" and "farmhands" to unite with "middle peasants" in order to nullify the power of "rich peasants" and to abolish the "landlord system." The Land Reform Movement continued on to 1953. In the spring of that year, of the approximately 85 million persons who made up the rural population of the Southwest Region less than 2.2 million inhabitants had not yet experienced "land reform."[5] In spite of the vast scale on which

3. Mao Tse-tung's report, "The Collectivization Movement," Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao [China Daily News], New York, Oct. 28, 1955.

4. Hsin-hua Jih-pao [New China Daily], Chungking, Nov. 21, 1951.

5. Ibid., Dec, 13, 1952.

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423 the program had been conducted, the Com-
565 munist cadres were ordered to complete a "re-examination" of the success of the Land Reform Movement.

According to statistics on the redistribution of land in northern Szechwan Province, "poor peasants" and "farm hands" were given approximately 85 per cent of the average land holding for all classes of peasants and "middle peasants" received 29 per cent more than average.[6] Although all lands rented to tenants by "rich peasants" were confiscated, "rich peasants" were allowed to retain the amount of land they were able to cultivate with or without the help of "farm hands." At the end of the Land Reform Movement, the "rich peasants" still maintained an average land holding approximately 58 per cent higher than the general average for all classes of peasants.[7]

By the end of 1952, approximately 102,241,000 shih-mou (17,068,333 acres) of land, 204,830,000 heads of cattle, 10,241,500 tons of grain, 10,241,000 farm implements, and 663,100 farm buildings were estimated to have been confiscated in the Southwest China region.[8]

6. Ibid., Nov. 21, 1951.
7. Ibid.
8. see next p.

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three and sometimes four crops a year. It is estimated that the annual output of farm products alone include rice, 15,000,000 piculs; wheat, 8,000,000 piculs; other cereals, 2,000,000 piculs; rape seed, 500,000 piculs; tobacco, 700,000 piculs; plus medicinal herbs, vegetables, and other farm products. The total value of all these products at pre-war prices was a little over 180,000,000 dollars, or 45 dollars per capita for the Plain. This production represents about 15 per cent of the total volume of agricultural produce of the whole province, while the area of the Plain is only about one-sixty-seventh of the total area of the province. In other words, the Chengtu Plain produces ten times as much per unit area than the rest of the Basin.

e) Farms and fields.--Among the farm areas of the Basin, Chengtu Plain has the largest average farm. According to a survey by Professor Brown and M. L. Li, the rented farms average 30.1 mow, and the owned farms average 73.1 mow.[1] These figures are almost twice as large as the average size of farms in the Basin as a whole.[2] They are, in fact, even larger than the largest average size of farm in North China.[3] This, of course, means additional wealth and more prosperity. This undoubtedly has accounted for the large farmstead and the well-kept farms throughout the Plain (Fig. 12). Moreover, unlike other parts of the Basin, most of the farms here are not so detached. In general, the individual fields of Chengtu Plain farms are larger. According to the same survey, the average field is 3.36 mow,[4] which is three times as large as that of the hilly areas in the Basin.[5] Larger fields are made possible, of course, by the flatter topography and better water-supply here.

f) Marketing of agricultural products.--The marketing of the diverse agricultural products of the Plain is interesting. Marketing is done mainly in the nearby towns or cities throughout the year. The Plain is dotted with market towns, so that all

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[1] H. D. Brown and M. L. Li, "A Survey of Fifty Farms on the Chengtu Plain," Chinese Econ. Journal, I (1927), 1-59.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Buck, op. cit., p. 273.

[4] Brown and Li, op. cit., p. 28.

[5] H. D. Brown and M. L. Li, "A Survey of Farms of Mountain Omei Areas," Chinese Econ. Journal, I (1927), 1059-76.